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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,269	04/17/2001	Takafumi Yuasa	2001-0044A	3545

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER
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PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRG

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762,269

Applicant(s)

YUASA ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond Phan

Art Unit

2181

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5. 6) ☐ Other: .

### **Part III DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-5 are pending.
2. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2111.

#### ***Drawings***

3. Figure 3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

#### ***Specification***

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US No. 6,191,942) in view of Pan-Ratzlaff (US NO. 5,852,545).

In regard to claim 1, Lee et al. disclose the portable computer device 200 comprising a computer main unit (i.e. portable computer) (see col. 2, lines 32-46); a mounting section containing a terminal section 104) that exchanges signals with the computer main unit, which are disposed in the computer main unit, and a space formed in the computer main unit (see figure 2, col. 2, line 49 through col. 3, line 22); a device, which contains another terminal section to exchange signals with the computer main unit by connecting with the terminal section, detachably from the mounting section (see figure 2, col. 2, line 49 through col. 3, line 22). But Lee et al. do not specifically disclose the locking mechanism to lock the device. However Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the detachable speakers for the laptop computer that comprises the mounting section and the locking recesses (see col. 10, lines 1-14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Pan-Ratzlaff within the system of Lee et al. because it would securely be able to hold the speakers to the computer component mounting section.

In regard to claim 2, Lee et al. disclose the device is a loudspeaker unit that has an acoustic space and provided with power and sound information from the computer main unit by connecting the terminal section of the computer main unit with the another terminal section (see col. 2, lines 33-46).

In regard to claim 3, Lee et al. disclose the device is a loudspeaker unit that has an acoustic space and from the computer main unit by connecting the terminal section of the computer main unit with the another terminal section (see col. 2, lines 33-46). But Lee et al. do not disclose the built-in amplifier. However Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the audio speakers with a built-in amplifier (see col. 12, line 55 through col. 13, line 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Pan-Ratzlaff within the system of Lee et al. because it would optimize the sound quality.

In regard to claim 4, Lee et al. explicitly disclose the terminal section has the power supply terminal supplying power to at least one of the device and rechargeable battery (see col. 3, lines 1-41).

In regard to claim 5, Lee et al. disclose the plurality of terminals are disposed at the terminal section so that power supply is delivered with each other between the plural terminals and a rechargeable battery, and the device detachably installed to the mounting section is the loudspeaker unit which has the acoustic space by connecting the terminal section of the computer main unit with the another terminal section (see figure 2, col. 2, lines 33-46). But Lee et al. do not disclose the built-in amplifier. However Pan-Ratzlaff discloses the audio speakers with a built-in amplifier (see col. 12, line 55 through col. 13, line 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Pan-Ratzlaff within the system of Lee et al. because it would optimize the sound quality.

### ***Conclusion***

7. All claims are rejected.
8. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Su (US No. 6,043,976)** discloses a docking base for a portable computer.  
**Derocher et al. (US No. 6,078,497)** disclose a portable electronic device having an enhanced speaker system.

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**Kim (US No. 6,181,550)** discloses an apparatus for mounting speakers in a portable computer

**Lundgren et al. (US No. 6,243,260)** disclose a retractable speakers for portable computer.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (703) 305-9656 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Phan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Raymond Phan**  
11/29/03